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The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" As I said on a previous occasion the matter is under consideration and I think a decision will be come to as early as possible."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" May I ask, Sir, whether it is a fact that a certain Prohibition Bill or a Local Option Bill has been prepared and perused by the hon. Minister ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"I am unable to give the information."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—" May I ask whether the hon. Minister has been saying that two districts have been selected for total prohibition being tried this year ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" No, Sir, not in that form."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—" May I know, Sir, how long it will take the Government to come to a decision ? "

The proposed total prohibition of liquor and the means for making up the loss of excise revenue.

* 751 *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. Swami : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health and the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state— 11-30 a.m.

(*a*) whether the Government placed before the Finance Committee any suggestions regarding the ways and means for making up of the loss of excise revenue due to the proposed attaining of total prohibition at the end of twenty years ;

(*b*) whether Government have any intention of using the contribution now released by the Central Government for this purpose ; and

(*c*) whether facilities were given to the Finance Committee to meet at any time after its formation for the purpose of finding out ways and means for making up the loss of excise revenue ?

A.—(*a*) The Government have not placed before the Finance Committee any suggestions of the kind referred to. It is the Finance Committee which has, in paragraph 9 of G.O. No. 1576, Revenue, dated 17th September 1926, been requested to examine the question and advise the Government on the possibility of securing adequate new sources of revenue. No suggestions have yet been received from the Committee. No proposal for the attainment of total prohibition within any specified period has been formulated by the Government.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) The Finance Committee for 1926-27 considered the question and asked for further information on certain points indicated in item (i) under section (iv) of the proceedings of the ninth meeting of the Committee held on the 3rd March 1927. This will be supplied to the Committee as soon as the information which the Government have called for from the Commissioner of Excise, has been received.

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Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" May I know why the Government are reluctant to place any suggestions before the Finance Committee which is going into the question of finding out ways and means to replace this loss of revenue ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" The Government are not at all reluctant, Sir. Information was called for by the Finance Committee and the Government have furnished part of it."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" Will the Government take any initiative in the matter and make suggestions to the Committee so that they may arrive at a speedy conclusion ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I said, Sir, that the Finance Committee had asked for information and that the Government had supplied part of the information and would supply further information as early as they can."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member's question was whether the Government would take the initiative by making suggestions to the Finance Committee ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I think that point too is under consideration."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether the hon. Minister has selected Nellore as one of the two districts in which prohibition should be tried, and if so whether he made that statement in the Council in his personal capacity or in his capacity as Minister ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I did not make a statement in that form, Sir."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Whatever be the exact form, did the hon Minister not make a statement to the effect that Nellore would be one of the two districts where prohibition is likely to be introduced ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" What I said was that if and when prohibition is decided upon by Government, I would be willing to consider the case of Nellore."

Mr. S SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, with reference to the answer to (*b*), may I ask for elucidation whether the answer refers to the appropriation of the contribution this year or whether it refers to the future years also ? Am I to understand that the Government have made up their minds to use no part of this remitted amount towards making up for loss of revenue under Excise ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" The Government have not made up their mind."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know what exactly is the meaning of the answer to the question, whether the Government have any intention of using the remitted contribution for this purpose, 'The answer is in the negative'? In view of the answer just given to my supplementary question, am I to understand that the Government have not decided the question ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" No, Sir. The Government have not decided the question at all. It may be that when the matter is finally decided, the Government will have to take action but as yet they have not come to any conclusion."

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Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" Sir, it is stated in the answer to (c) that the Finance Committee asked for certain information on the 3rd March 1927. May I know why there has been this long delay in supplying the information and when it is likely to be furnished to the Committee ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Part of the information, as I already said, has been supplied. A great deal of the information they have asked for is a matter for the Commissioner for Excise to work out in detail, necessarily a thing in which he could not give an offhand reply but has to consult his officers."

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" Is it likely that the hon. Minister will take two years more till his term runs out, for furnishing this information ? "

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" May I know whether the hon. Minister applied for appropriating any portion of the remitted amount to be used as compensation against the possible loss of revenue if prohibition is introduced ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" I am sorry I cannot give the information."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" Then may I take it, Sir, that when the hon. Minister said that the Government did not propose utilizing the amount, it was his individual view, or may I know whether it was the opinion of the Cabinet ? "

* The hon. the President :—" I do not think that the question can be put in that form."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—" May I know whether it is the intention of the Government not to begin prohibition until they levy new taxes ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" I cannot answer that, Sir. The whole question is under consideration."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—" Including the attempt to levy new taxes ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" I am sorry I cannot answer that."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know, Sir, whether the utilization of the remitted contribution either wholly or in part is under consideration for this purpose ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" I think, Sir, I have made matters clear. The whole thing is under the consideration of the Government. As the whole thing is confidential, I am not in a position to answer the question."

Medical

Milk account in the Royapetta Hospital.

* 752 Q.—Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have looked into the milk account and inspection newly introduced in the Royapetta Hospital;